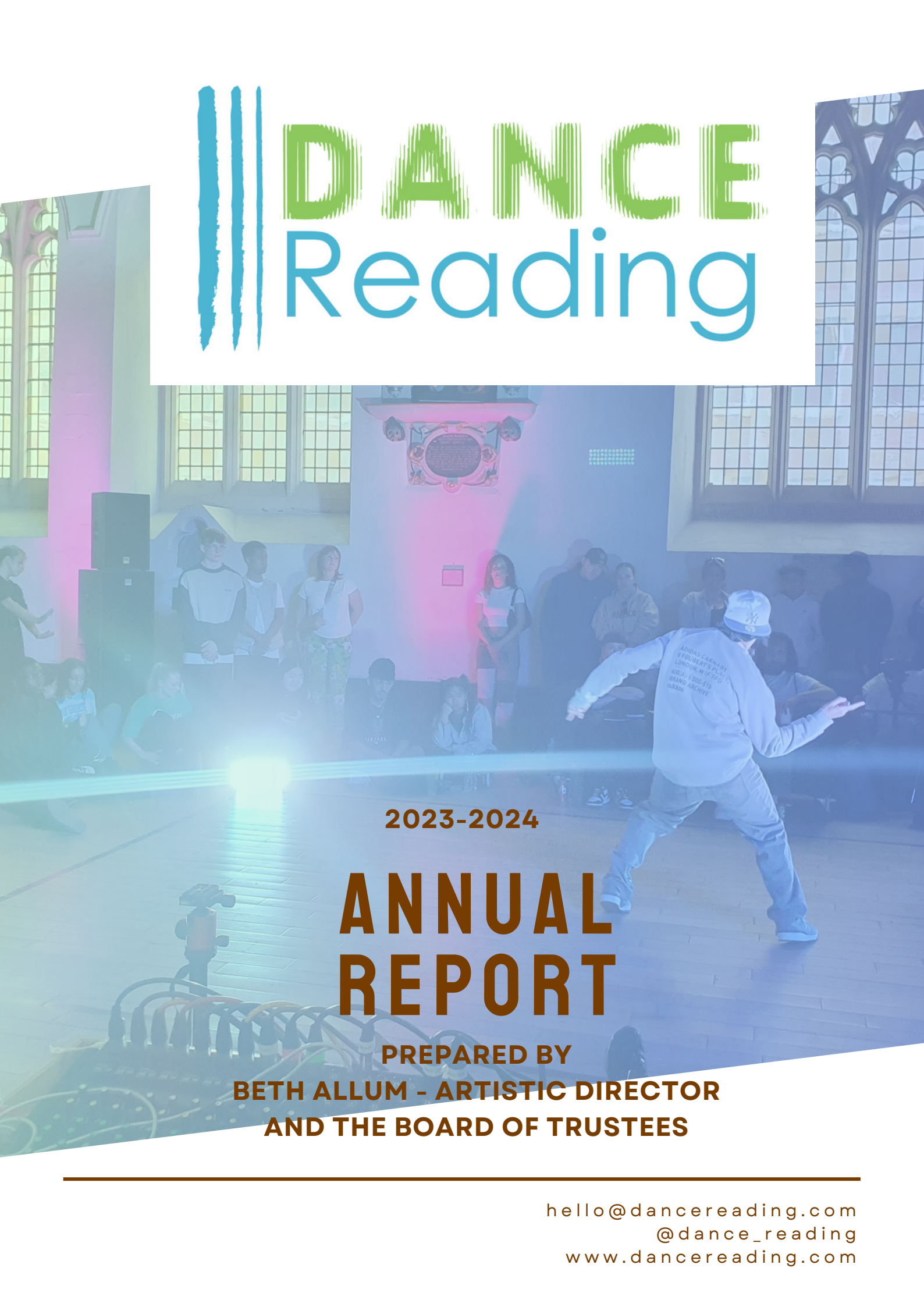


The background of the entire page is a photograph of a dance studio. A dancer in a grey hoodie and blue cap is in the foreground, performing a move. A group of people is watching in the background. The room has large windows and a wooden floor. The logo is overlaid on the top half of the image.

DANCE Reading

2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT

**PREPARED BY
BETH ALLUM - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

hello@dancereading.com
@dance_reading
www.dancereading.com

INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR



I am pleased to be submitting our third Annual Report as a registered charity covering the financial year January to December 2023.

Despite funding challenges throughout this year we are pleased to have been able to maintain many of the most valuable strands of our work, with a particular focus on supporting young people and children to engage with and grow through exciting dance projects.

Supported by the Board of Trustees and the core freelance team, our Artistic Director Beth Allum has successfully managed a number of grant funded projects recruiting freelance project assistants, artists and dance organisations to deliver the activities and bringing about significant cultural and community impacts.

Beth continues to develop strong relationships within and around Reading, working collaboratively on projects with schools, community leaders and other stakeholder in dance to design and deliver projects ensuring that the work is well placed and relevant.

Our unique role, as the primary dance development organisation in Reading, continues to provide an important function for the local cultural sector, nurturing the dance landscape in Reading by bringing high quality dance work to town, building new audiences for dance and developing knowledge and skills.

As an organisation we continue to demonstrate our passion for dance in all of its forms and maintain our belief in its ability to transform lives, well being, health and bring people together for uplifting shared cultural experiences.

We are hoping that the future will bring a more stable funding landscape for everybody and that we will be able to grow Dance Reading Festival and deepend and broaden our reach through our community work.

Danielle Corbishley
Founder & Chair



A SUMMARY OF OUR WORK IN 2023

2023 was a busy and challenging year, without Arts Council funding for our annual festival. However, our Artistic Director managed to secure a range of funding from other sources and put together a programme of events, classes and workshops, building on partnerships and reaching new audiences.

Our youth programme delivered high level work this year, with 20 young people engaged in an amazing programme of producing, creative workshops, writing and staging their own work, creating choreography and films, and learning from industry professionals.

On The Block had two performances this year, and continues to go from strength to strength with increasing audience numbers and increasing skill levels, as well as reaching young and aspiring dancers.

We are proud of the work we are doing in the community, and also with our local and regional partners.



THE HISTORY OF DANCE READING

Dance Reading, previously known as Junction Dance, was founded in 2014, when a group of arts professionals, dancers, producers, writers and teachers got together to consider how to strengthen and raise the profile of the dance landscape in Reading. Whilst there were, and still are, hundreds of dance schools and clubs teaching thousands of young people and adults to dance, there were no venues programming dance, very few accessible and affordable performance spaces and no professional development for dancers locally.

We consulted extensively with the dance sector in the area, finding out their needs, their skills, their interests and their hopes for the future.

We started by addressing the need for professional development through a programme of skill sharing, and then we moved on to our first month long festival in November 2016.

Since then, Dance Reading has grown and grown, and in 2020 we constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with objectives based on our firm belief that dance and movement are invaluable tools to improve the lives and wellbeing of our wider community. The community work we had been undertaking since 2014 has grown extensively, and the professional programme and festival continues to bring new and exciting dance to Reading, as well as providing a platform for, and showcasing, the dance talent that exists locally.

THE TEAM 2023

We are very lucky to have a fantastic board of trustees who continue to support us and all our work since 2020. They bring a wide range of skills and expertise and we are actively recruiting at the moment for more to add to the team.

We also have a dedicated team of regular freelancers that we work with each year, who bring amazing skills and connections. This year we worked with an additional 134 freelancers across our youth project, schools project and the festival.

TRUSTEES

Daniel Cameron
Irene Cameron
Anuradha Chaturvedi
Danielle Corbishley
Obiageli Onyekpe
Grant Thornton

STAFF

Beth Allum
Artistic Director

Core Freelancers
Tom Ryan
Laura De Moxom
Marley Seville
Elle George
Becky Blackburn
Josie Norman

Volunteers
Toby Schofield
Rich Moxom
Raghad (Rayan)
Dawn Simmonds
Abdurahman Ismail
Plus young people from
our youth project



DANCE READING FESTIVAL 2023

Dance Reading Festival 23 was considerably smaller than previous years, but still saw a wide range of innovative and ambitious performances, workshops and classes, along with community engagement, meaningful participation and in depth youth engagement.

Two stunning performances from Dani Harris-Walters and FubuNation created a double bill at South Street Arts Centre, bringing contemporary dance and hiphop together, for an audience who rarely get to see either style. Young people from our youth project took the role of producer for this event, supporting the artists, preparing the venue and taking on front of house roles.

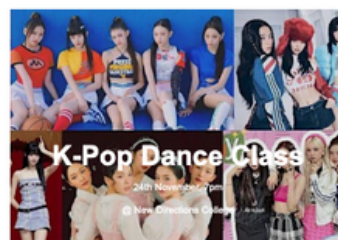
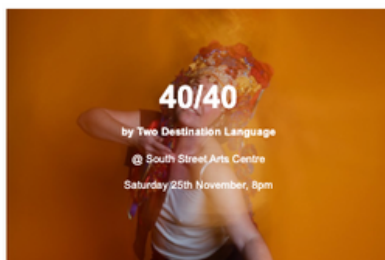
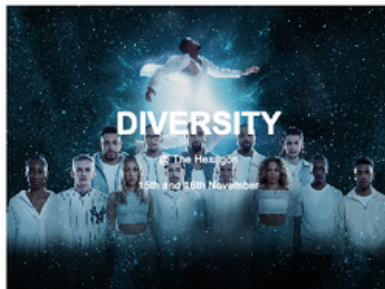
A partnership with Reading Borough Council enabled us to bring CODE, by Justice in Motion, staged outdoors at Reading Football Club, bringing dance to a whole new audience of football goers before a key match. The themes of the piece tied in closely to a tragic event in Reading's recent history, and saw participation and funding from the Community Safety Partnership and Safer Streets, and was supported by Reading Football Club as a continuation of 'Olly's Work', started in commemoration of a young boy who died as a result of knife crime, and whose legacy continues to raise awareness of the dangers of carrying a knife with young people.

Diversity came to Reading Hexagon, and our youth project participants were able to see the show thanks to support from Reading Borough Council. Their visit contributed to their Arts Award portfolio, and they created work inspired by it. Two stunning pieces of classical Indian dance took centre stage in the festival's programming and brought two local dance companies to the fore.

South Street Arts Centre programmed 3 dance pieces this month, as part of the festival, bringing dance to their traditionally theatre and comedy focussed audiences with great success. This partnership continues to grow and we see an increasing impact on the programming here, resulting in a new audience expecting high quality dance in this venue.









DANCE

Reading

festival 2023

BOOK NOW!



dance performances and
workshops for everyone

OPEN FOR ART

We have been actively seeking opportunities to bring dance to existing cultural events across Reading, and this summer saw us partner with Jelly, a visual arts organisation and one of Reading's National Portfolio Organisations, to bring a brand new open dance jam to the streets, as part of Jelly's Open for Art festival.

With a dance floor, DJ and compere, we invited local dancers, dance companies and people passing by to come and dance with us.

The result was 4 hours of free style jamming, in a range of dance styles, by a whole cross section of the community, bringing in dancers from Oxford and other surrounding areas.

The lack of pressure on performance, and the open 'jamming' format meant that young children, a passing hen do party, and festival goers alike could all take part.



YOUTH AND MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

DANCE FOR MENTAL HEALTH

We continue to work closely with John Madejski Academy and with Reading School of Dance to deliver this mentoring focussed project with over 20 young people aged 11 to 18. This year saw the bulk of their creative programme take place. We delivered 39 sessions, plus creative workshops and opportunities, per group of young people, supporting them at every stage with their learning and producing.

Amongst other work, they took part in workshops with industry professionals exploring lighting design and lighting operation, DJ skills, sound and music production, script writing, career talks, and discussions with inspiring people in their chosen industries.

They worked on their portfolios, doing research, reflections and discussions. They designed logos for On The Block hiphop event and produced stickers and hoodies for the event. They worked as producers, front of house and social media designers for several arts events.

They planned, delivered and evaluated their own arts events with members of the public and with young dance students. And one group wrote and staged their own play, from start to finish, learning lighting, sound and filming all at the same time.



YOUTH AND MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

DANCE FOR MENTAL HEALTH

These young people continue to invest their time in this project, turning up every week and reflecting on the impact that it is having on their mental health.

"I just wanted to say thanks so much for u and Liz and anyone else putting this arts award thing together. I'm so glad I get to do something like this it's the first time I might actually be good at something that can help me and give me something to do with my education that I can show people and be proud off that. I am soooooo very excited. So thank you so much and I'm gonna try my hardest on this.

And this year I'm taking my gcse and I'm properly not going to pass because I'm so far behind so just to know that I have this makes me so happy I could like just drop dead and now I might hahve something I ca show my mum for once that I've done good in."



YOUTH AND MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

DANCE FOR MENTAL HEALTH

One group of young people created a film for a Youth In Mind Conference, run by the charity Mind, which was screened at Reading University, to an audience of over 200 industry professionals, and talked about the importance of dance for young people's mental health.

You can watch the film here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDOgc0DFBsM&t=13s>



FINANCES



DANCE READING CIO No.: 1192879

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

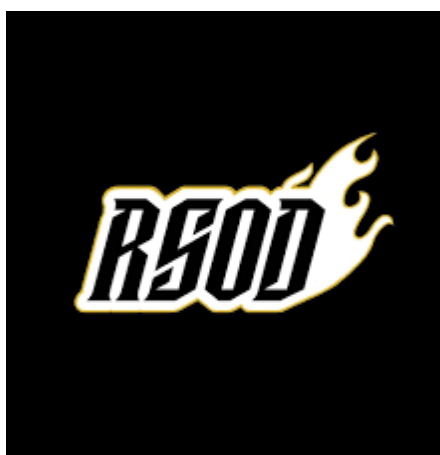
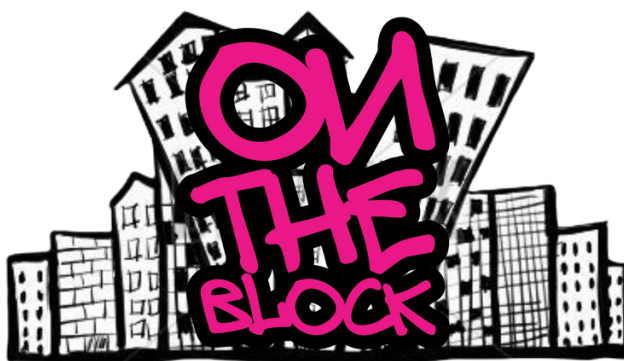
1/01/2023-31/12/2023

	Year to 31-12-2023		Year to 31-12-2022	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Arts Council Grants	2,331		55,830	
Other Arts Grants & donations	40,400		10,690	
Grant Income		42,731		66,520
Transferred from precursor charity	3,321			
Box Office and misc. income	2,459		245	
		5,780		245
Total income		48,511		66,765
EXPENDITURE				
Advertising and marketing	(33)		(3,593)	
Artist and production fees	(33,570)		(57,159)	
Travel	(238)		(1,609)	
Hall/theatre hire	(3,038)		(2,538)	
Stationery/printing	(720)		(2,279)	
Sundry	(617)		(2,157)	
Total costs		(38,215)		(69,335)
Excess of income over expenditure		10,296		(2,570)
Cash balance as at 01/01/2023		13,669		16,240
Cash balance as at 31/12/2023		23,965		13,669

PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**





DANCE READING CIO No.: 1192879

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Dance Reading

23, Whitfield
Stanford in the Vale
Oxon. SN7 8FL

26th July 2024

To the Trustees:

I have carried out an independent review of the accounts which are detailed in the annual report and am satisfied that they accurately represent the financial affairs of the charity, Dance Reading, for the year ending 31.12.2023.

Yours Faithfully

Sally Luther ACMA, ACT

DANCE READING CIO No.: 1192879

Balance Sheet at 31.12.2023

Bank	23,965
Total net assets	<u>23,965</u>
Restricted funds	
DR Festival 2023	5,285
CYP RBC	16,318
Total Restricted funds	<u>21,603</u>
General Fund	2,362
Total Funds	<u>23,965</u>

